



c. 1886

Rooms with a View

Taking advantage of beautiful surroundings, the Sea Breeze Hotel provides fine food and refreshments to riders of the Rochester & Lake Ontario Railroad. Irondequoit Bay is on the left of the hotel, with the park later being developed up the hill on the right.



THE GROVE AT SEA BREEZE.

c. 1879 The Park Opens

The park opens in 1879 as the final stop on the Rochester & Lake Ontario Railroad Company's steam train line, running from the city to the lakefront. Each summer, thousands flock to the Sea Breeze picnic groves for recreation and the cool breezes off the lake.



1889

The Sea Breeze Hotel

The hotel, located where the Whirlwind is today, overlooks the lake and the bay, and offered fine dining, dancing and top vaudeville acts. While the hotel burns in 1909, a fountain – seen to the right of the crowd – remains in the park until the 1960s.



1900

A Day at the Park

The trolley car soon becomes the major method for traveling to Sea Breeze. Passengers get off the cars inside the park; later on, the tracks are moved to let people off outside. This picture was taken from the park's front lawn looking northward.



1902

Training for the Industry

While spending off seasons in Philadelphia, George Long's family spends summers in Rochester and other waterfront spots, running their carousels. The first 4 train passengers shown are George Long Sr., daughter Kathleen, Mother Long and son George Long Jr. – whose love for carousels blossoms into a livelihood.



1903

First Permanent Ride

Already established as a great place for picnics, a wooden roller coaster is added to attract new guests. Built where the Jack Rabbit is located today, the figure-8 coaster is a major attraction for its time. And while smaller in size, it's the start of something big.



1904

A Long Family Tradition

Members of the Long family build and operate their own carousels in Northeastern cities. George W. Long, Sr. brings his to Sea Breeze. The family also comes and lives in one of the two rooms attached to the back of the building. George W. Long, Jr. (age 12) can be seen to the right of center.



1906

Turning on the Juice

Electricity comes to the area, bringing with it trolley cars, lighting, longer stays by guests – and offering bigger and better rides for summer fun-lovers of all ages. This giant Circle Swing operates at the north end of the park, just south of the Sea Breeze hotel.



1910

A View of the Beach

As the Sea Breeze area develops, this boat pier and other lakeside attractions are built to handle the thousands of visitors who come to enjoy swimming, boating and picnicking. The pier was found just across the street from the park's northern end.

View from The Bluff, Sea Breeze, N. Y.



1910

The Ships Come In

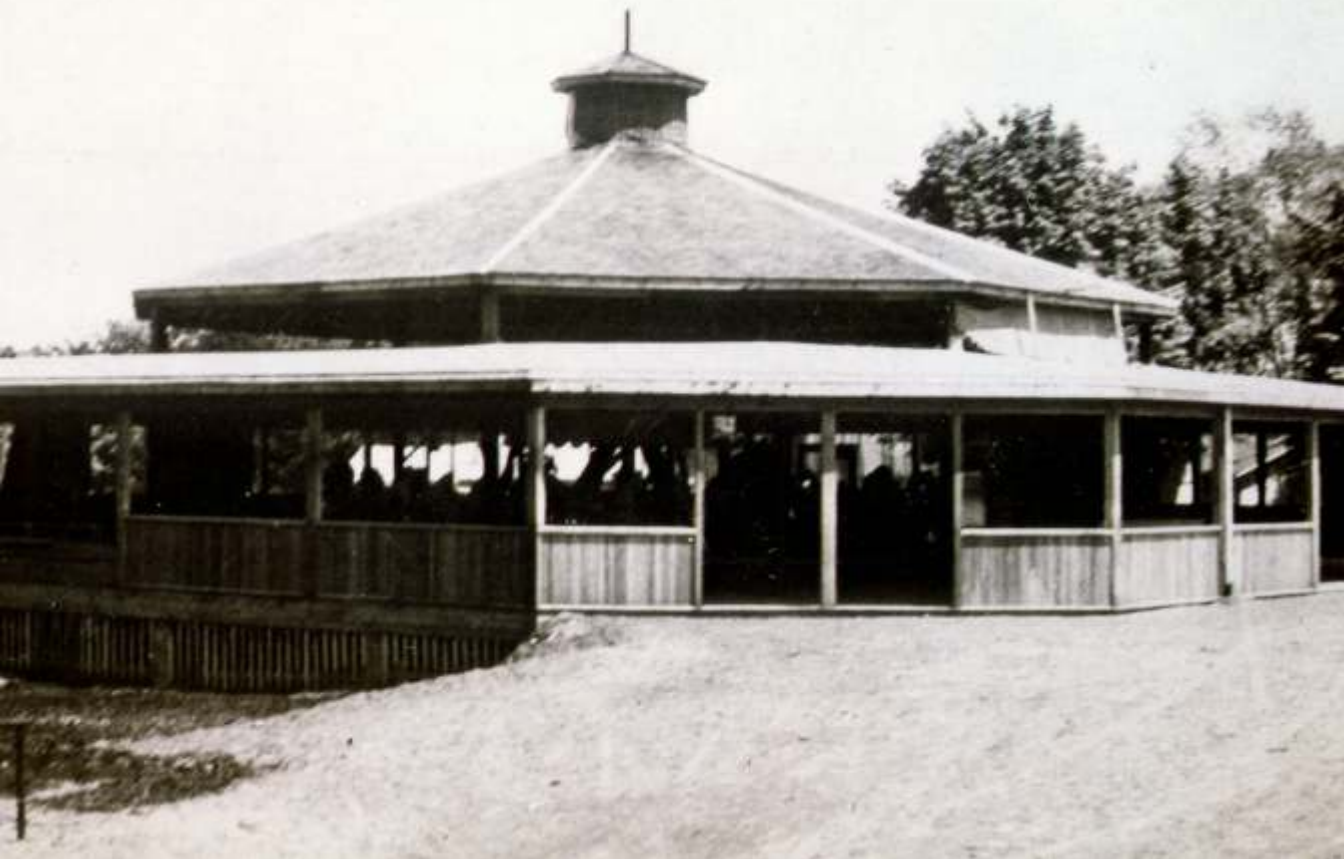
People come to Sea Breeze by boats, which dock at the pier north of the park. Ferries such as the “Ontario” and the “Thorne” arrive from Charlotte Beach and downtown via the Genesee River, and then make their way along the shoreline of Lake Ontario.



c. 1910

The Long Family Carousel

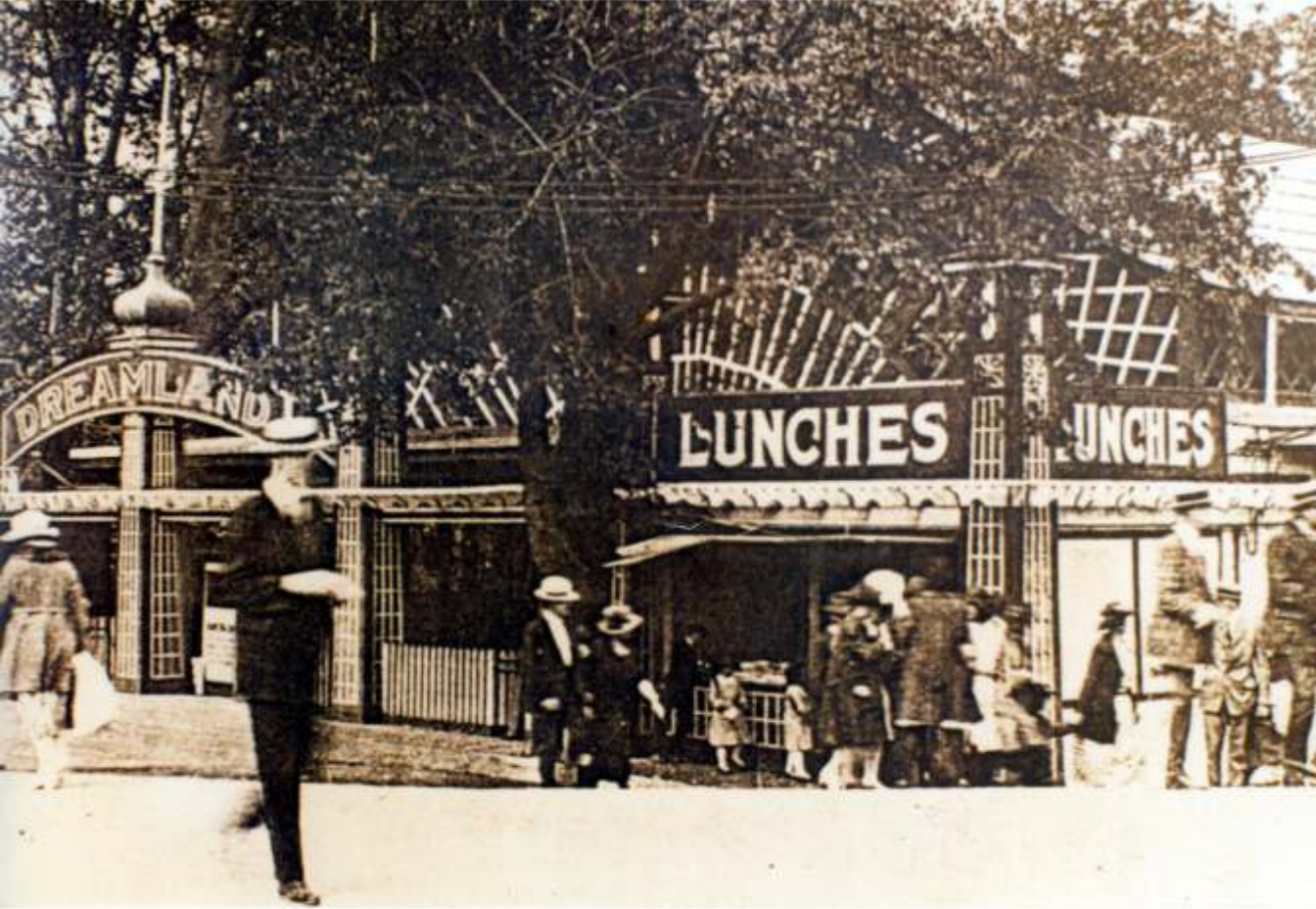
Over time the Longs make modifications to their carousel – such as adding rounding boards, creating inner row jumpers and carving new legs. This merry-go-round is later moved to and operated at Seneca Park, making room at Sea Breeze for PTC #36.



1915

Home of the Long Carousel

While operating their carousel at a different spot in the park, the Long family constructs a new building for the carousel near the center of the park. The new structure soon becomes the home for PTC #36 – and the future site of today's carousel and building.



1917

Everybody Dance!

It's the 1920s and the whole country is caught up in the "dance craze". Sea Breeze answers the call by building "Dreamland" just north of the Jack Rabbit. The dance hall burns down in 1923, but "Danceland" is built a year later in today's Jack Rabbit parking lot.



1920

The Jack Rabbit

Using the area's natural terrain and an out & back design by Miller & Baker, a wooden classic comes to life. The station and track have been updated, but the Jack Rabbit – today the nation's oldest continuously operating wooden coaster – provides legendary thrills.



c. 1921 Park and Ride

Always a popular destination, visitors come to the park by train, trolley, boat and eventually the Model T. Familiar sights here include the 1915 carousel building and what is now the park office. The office building was later picked up and moved to its present location.



1921

The Virginia Reel

At this time, 3 roller coasters are in operation. The Virginia Reel is in the foreground, the Dips (later called the Greyhound) to the right, and the Jack Rabbit at the south end of the park. Note the sign that asks riders to pay as they leave.



1925

The Natatorium

Billed as “The World's Largest Salt-Water Swimming Pool” at 125 ft x 300 ft, the Natatorium opens just south of the Jack Rabbit. Features include fountains, play elements and seating for water shows. Filled with filtered water from the bay, salt was then added.



1926

PTC #36 Comes to the Park

Built in 1915, this Philadelphia Toboggan Company machine is first placed at Rochester's Seneca Park, and then swapped with the Long carousel operating at Sea Breeze in 1926. Originally the machine needed no light fixtures, since the park closed at sundown. Lights were later added by George W. Long, Jr.



1926

The Wildcat

Summertime in the Twenties means taking a ride on the Wildcat roller coaster. It was located just north of the Jack Rabbit, with its station where the Flying Scooters is today. In the background is the Midway – before its overhanging porch was installed.



1945

Take a Break at the Pagoda

After riding the Jack Rabbit, the Caterpillar, and the Subway, you could catch your breath at the Pagoda, a refreshment stand located where the Tilt-a-Whirl is today. Long a mainstay of the south end, the Pagoda offered 15-cent hamburgs and Anderson's Beverages.



1945 Giggling Gertie

If you were taking a ride on the Subway, located under the Jack Rabbit, it was hard to miss Giggling Gertie. She stood over the ride entrance, laughing at everything. When Gertie was removed, some missed her face – but few missed her constant laughter.



c. 1946

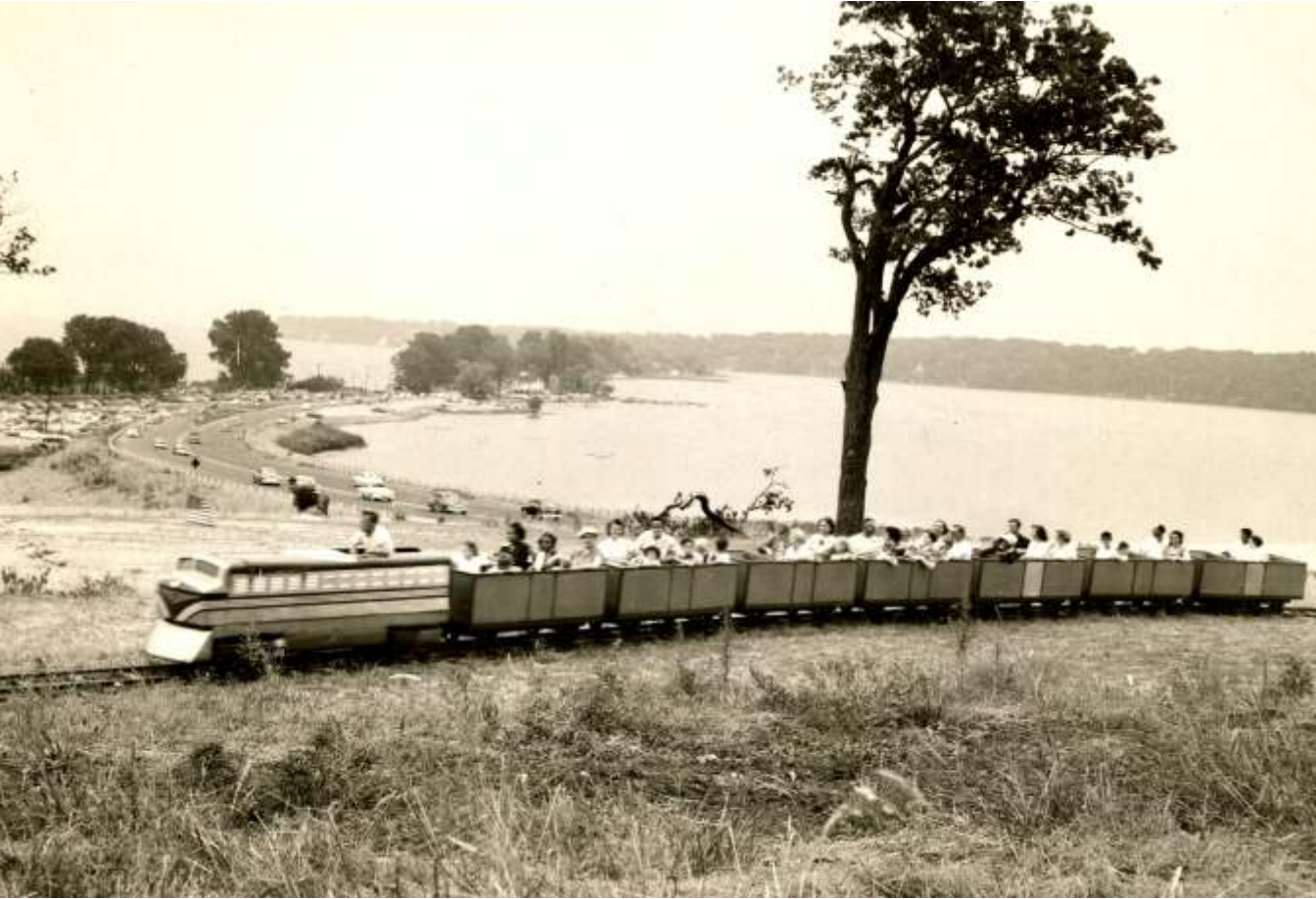
The North End

A look northward offers a view of attractions like the Goofy House, Hey Dey, Loop-O-Plane, miniature golf, Thunderbolt, the Sky Ride and a popcorn & peanut stand. As America rediscovers its love for summer fun, George Long buys the park and renames it Dreamland.



c. 1950 Miniature Golf

In the 1950s miniature golf became popular, and the park builds its own course. Located next to the Bobsleds, the course uses lanterns from the Virginia Reel to liven things up; today, the lanterns light up the Train Depot. Miniature golf at the park eventually gave way to more space for parking in the 1980s.



c. 1950

Staying on Track

The Scenic train takes you out for a beautiful view of Lake Ontario and Irondequoit Bay, at a spot where the water park is today. The original train cars were actually mine cars, altered to carry passengers rather than cargo. Later the cars and engine were modified, capturing the old fashioned look that you see today.



c. 1950

A Midway of Games

Dreamland enjoys a reputation for exciting games of skill. This picture shows the selection available in the spots occupied today by Balloon Darts and Cat Rack. Other popular games of the time include Flasher, String Game, Play Ball with Charlie, 3-In-Line, Fascination, Down the Hatch, Pokerino and Devil's Bowling Alley.



c. 1950 Live On Stage

Guests flock to see live acts at the main stage area, located where the Log Flume is today. From horse shows and lion taming to high wire acts, thousands enjoy a wide variety of exciting shows every weekend. The later growth of television marked the decline in the popularity of live acts.



c. 1960 Fairylana

Dreamland's new petting zoo is located behind the Bumper Cars, where the picnic groves are today. Visitors enjoy an assortment of animals like ducks, sheep, Henrietta the Tapir, and Spitzzy the Llama. For an underwater view of the fish pond, you could walk into the mouth of a giant concrete whale.



c. 1960

Laughing on the Lightning Bug

Introduced in the mid-1940s, the Lightning Bug entertains guest of all ages for a number of years in the spot where the Music Express stands today. Behind the Bug is the gift shop and barn of Fairyland, and just to the left is the Junior Coaster.



c. 1960

Sunday in the Park

This view of the north end shows prior locations of the Boats and Turtles. Today both rides operate by the Bumper Cars in Kiddie City. In the background are the Penny Arcade, Goofy House, Ghost Train, and the Lunch Box Restaurant – and lots of litter.



c. 1960 Over The Falls

Built in 1954 and powered by a giant paddle wheel, Over The Falls delivers the steepest flume drop in the world at the time. Other rides include a river boat ride on the Delta Queen and a trip on the scenic Train. Later, the U-Drive-Em Boats appeared in the Pond.



1961 Monkeying Around

Designed to help promote the park at parades and other off-site locations, this Crosley truck was made out of two separate vehicles. The chimp in the back was on loan from one of the free acts performing at the park at the time.



1962 The Bobsleds

In order to make the ride more modern and exciting, park crews rebuild the Junior Coaster and create the classic Bobsleds coaster. Using a then state-of-the-art tubular track design and adding a third story, the new ride becomes a George Long and Seabreeze original.



1975

The Seventies

A look north reveals plenty of fun on the Paratrooper, Hot Rods, Manhandler, Rock-O-Planes, Enchanter and more. It's also the time of Report Card Days, Kiddie Fun Day, Carlos' Tacos and C. Breezy, complete with his green polyester leisure suit. "Dreamland Park" changes its name to "Seabreeze" and a new era begins.



1976

George Long, the Carver

Upon retirement, George Long devotes his energies and carving abilities to creating over 600 miniature horses. In addition to single horses, Long builds two complete working miniature carousels. One celebrates the country's Bicentennial; another miniature, shown here, is a duplicate of PTC #36 (seen in background).



1977

The Gyrosphere

This Seabreeze-designed ride featured a Scrambler inside an inflatable dome – and later a tension structure. The custom light, sight & sound show was updated periodically, but the most remembered music is “Fire On High” by Electric Light Orchestra.



1992

Just Add Water

Seabreeze begins adding water slides to its list of varied attractions in 1986. The combination of “wet and dry” attractions, a modern-day reflection of its proud history, continues to make the park one of the area's most popular destinations.



1996

A New Carousel is Born

After a devastating 1994 fire which destroys PTC #36 and other attractions nearby, the fifth generation of the Long family decides to build a new hand-carved carousel. This magnificent “revolving work of art” is the result of two years’ hard work by a dedicated crew.



2001 All Wet

The water park continues to grow. Attractions like Rip Tide, the Vortex and the Soak Zone are added to keep park guests cool. The new Wave Pool, and the seating area around it, gives families the perfect way to relax and enjoy even more fun under the sun.



2004

A New Spin on Things

The debut of the Whirlwind spinning steel coaster was the perfect way to celebrate 125 years of fun. Other new additions since then have included the Music Express, Twirlin' Tea Cups, Helix, Wave Swinger, Balloon Race, Hydro Racer, and the magnifique Cirque En Vol!